Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 CU-04 /116 W

-----063531 260445Z/17

R 260257Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6457
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ENRG, CH

SUBJ: PRC OIL EXPLORATION IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

- 1. THE CHINESE HAVE PUBLICLY CONFIRMED THAT THEY ARE CURRENTLY EXPLORING FOR OIL IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.
- 2. ON AUGUST 24 BROADCAST FROM CANTON DESCRIBING POST-CCP CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT KWANGTUNG PROVINCE REPORTED THAT "THE MASSES OF CADRES, STAFF AND WORKERS OF THE . . . PETROLEUM POSPECTING HEADQUARTERS OF THE . . . PETROLEUM COMPANY ARE JOYFUL OVER THEIR COLLEAGUE LI CHI-LIANG'S ELECTION AS AN LATERNATE MEMBER OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE." THEIR MESSAGE OF SALUTE TO CHIRMAN HUA NOTED THAT "THEY ARE DETERMINED TO DISCOVER PETROLEUM IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND THAT THEY WILL STRIVE TO ESTABLISH 10 OR SO TACHING-TYPE OILFIELDS." CONGEN BROADCAST ANALYSTS BELIEVE THE NAMES OF THE PROSPECTING HEADQUARTERS AND THE PETROLEUM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPANY, THOUGH INDISTINCT IN THE TRANSMISSION, WERE "NAN HAI" AND "LO MING", RESPECTIVELY.

3. COMMENT: WE INTERPRET THIS PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AS SINGALING PEKING'S DETERMINATION TO EXPLOIT ANY SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERY OF OIL IN THE AREA.

	Margaret F. Grafeiu	Deciassilled/Neleased	03 Department of State	LO Systematic Neview	22 May 2009
CROSS					
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NNN					

Message Attributes

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